

## How I Choose to Deal with Society

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If you look around in our society, you can see all different kinds of people. Especially who have a disability just like me, but who function very well. Society sees the disability but seldom reads about them. I am going to tell you what it is like living inside a body that moves only at its own speed: I have Cerebral Palsy (CP).

When people see me, they are curious.

One day I remember walking downtown with one of my friends when suddenly, a lady approached me and started to ask me all kinds of personal questions. The questions were not cruel, but her attitude and tone made those questions seem inappropriate, and I felt that she was invading my privacy.

She asked insensitive questions like, "can they help with medicine?" I started to feel frustration and put down as a human being I answered her, "Therapists give me therapy which make me stronger, and I also have a speech therapist who helps me to speak more clearly." Since I felt uneasy, I began to walk away and when I looked back, she was just standing there watching me. All the way home I thought about what had happened. She made me feel bad inside and gave me the impression that I should not be walking around on earth.

However, must remember that I am just like everybody else even though I walk and talk funny. I would never change because I feel comfortable in my body and I know my reflexes. Not having my disability would be scary for me. However, when I do get a little drunk, I am able to walk steadier. When I do not have alcohol in my system my nervous do not connect but they go beside each other instead of connection directly. My cerebral palsy affects the way I walk and affect my vocal cords. I have CP all though my body, from head to toe. It does not affect my learning ability. Though it does slow me down. I walk, write, read, run, and dance, and for me I am doing it at my own pace. People make me nervous. When they are looking at me and I know they staring I get nervous and I walk ten times funnier. Also, my legs get shakier and which my body shakes. Some people are more aware of my disability than others.

People who are not comfortable with people with disability have a hard time accepting them. They do not understand, and they think it could rub off on them. This is not true, of course. My friend feels comfortable with me and sometimes I joke around with them about my CP but I just do not jokes around with other people who feel uneasy with me and that is OK. After awhile they come round to understanding what it is like being disability and that is what makes a big change in our relationships. They realize that I am just like everyone else.

Living day by coping with CP will always be with me. I enjoy life and enjoy who I am. I would not change the way I am because I have learned to deal with my situation. People who have felt uncomfortable with me have learned to deal with my disability as well.